

Joshua Coffin to Lydia Maria Child.

Phila. 25 June 1842.



Esteemed Friend,

In compliance with the request of James Gibbons or yourself I forget which, I would inform you that the lines of the poet Moore, alluded to in the letter to E. M. Davis, may be found in the then complete works of Thomas Moore published in Philadelphia in 1831. They may be found in an epistle to Lord Viscount Forbes Page 122. There is also another epistle to Thomas Hume M.D. Page 127. They are both long epistles or I would <sup>now</sup> send you a copy. Have a little patience & you shall have a copy of both. They are both written from Washington,

"Where tribunes rule, where dusky Davibow

"And what was Goose Creek once, is Tiber now."

In another place he speaks of traveling <sup>fogs</sup>

"Over hill & dale, through thickets & through

"Midst bears & yankees, democrats & frogs."

I am quite obliged to you for your offer to print my advertisement, which you will find inclosed. I am happy to say that my business is steadily increasing & according to present appearances I shall have as much as I can attend to. It will be profitable &



it shall be useful. A fig then for the Post-Master & the honorable Senate. I have with a good deal of reluctance finally consented to write you a description of my kidnapping tour to Tennessee. I hate to talk about "I myself I," & often think of the remark of the apostle "where he says 'I speak of myself, I speak as a fool'" probably because no person can talk much about himself without talking like a fool. Had I the power of transferring to canvas the pictures, that are so vividly impressed on my mind, I could fill a gallery, but to do that I must have your powers of description. I will however endeavour to give you an outline of what I saw & felt & did. Some of the scenes, through which I passed, were most laughable. The Saturday night that I first saw Isaac in the woods would furnish the materials for several pictures. The time near midnight; the sky entirely covered with black clouds so that I could only see the dim outline of Isaac & the slave Dudley, a noble fellow, as we stood beneath the thick spreading branches of the unbroken forest, Isaac standing erect, his hands behind him & almost as immovable as the trees around him, Dudley, six feet in height with one leg shorter than the other, jumping up & down with excitement, shouting & clapping Isaac



on the shoulder with "there, do you hear that? Didn't I tell you so. Didn't I tell you I was your friend?" But enough of this for the present. I will hereafter try to write something, which will do for your paper. I hope you will call & see, if she is now in the city, one of the most interesting cases of escape from slavery that you have ever seen. She was sent from this city yesterday morning & consigned to Mr. Johnston. She is from N. C. was brought away by a sea captain. She was sold by her master to the speculators & to avoid being sent away she was hidden for 7 years! in a small upper room of a house occupied by colored people & within a hundred yards of her master's house, who did not know she was there. She had not seen her boy, for 7 years till within 3 days of her coming away. She has been shut up so long that she can hardly walk. Another woman was brought away from Delaware, who was found tied to a tree. If Mr. Johnston was the man he ought to be, he would invite you occasionally to see some of these remarkable cases, which are continually passing from Phil. to N. Y.

The (~~Vagrant~~) what a gross mistake the Vigilance Committee of this city are doing, a fine business in weakening & dilapidating the edifice of slavery. Success to them. Please to call the attention of your readers to my advertisement. I do not want a puff, but, as I now have many applications from the interior of this State I expect to have many more as soon as the people know that they <sup>can</sup> depend on having their business done properly.



My respects to General Wright & all the family  
a united & affectionate notice of

John's letter

Joshua Coffin Southern

Mrs Lydia Maria Child  
New York.

Cypress St. Brookline.

Intelligence offices have generally so badly conducted as  
to deserve the name of cheating & swindling shops. Unwarranted  
by a large proportion of the best part of the population  
will have nothing to do with them. So far as I am concern-  
ed the well founded prejudice is wearing away. Let the  
public see how that confidence ~~the~~ we in me will not  
be magnified & I shall have a good measure & enough  
of it.